

advantageously, a user would be able to edit such clip-art pictures in the collection, or use existing clip-art pictures as the basis for new clip-art pictures that the user would create and store in the collection, and in addition, create clip-art pictures from scratch. Further, and even more ideally, a group of users in wireless communication with each other would be able to create a clip-art picture collectively, with any user in the group able to help draw the clip-art picture while all the others in the group observe the drawing.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Accordingly, the present invention provides a wireless terminal, and corresponding method for use by a wireless terminal, for communicating pictures via a wireless communication system, the wireless terminal including: a clip-art picture manager, for managing clip-art pictures including maintaining the clip-art pictures in galleries, each gallery including a plurality of clip-art pictures and each gallery of a size suitable for communication as a single wireless message, and for providing at least one clip-art picture from at least one of the galleries; a gallery folder, for storing the galleries of clip-art pictures in a memory device of the wireless terminal; a transceiver, for receiving and sending a message including at least one clip-art picture; a display screen for displaying clip-art pictures; and keys including keys of a numeric keypad as well as soft keys.

In a further aspect of the invention, the clip-art picture manager in turn includes: a gallery selector, for enabling a user to view galleries in a gallery folder, to select a gallery from the gallery folder, and to save a gallery in the gallery folder; a clip-art picture editor, for enabling a user to edit a

clip-art picture in a gallery, and to create a new clip-art picture to be included in a gallery; and a gallery communicator, for selecting a gallery from the galleries in the gallery folder via the gallery selector, and for providing the selected gallery in a format suitable for transmission by the transceiver.

In another further aspect, the invention also includes a graphic message handler, for enabling a user to create a text message with at least one clip-art picture and including information indicating where in the text the clip-art picture is intended to be located, thereby providing an in-line graphics message.

In yet another further aspect of the invention, the transceiver includes an automatic recognition module, for determining whether or not a received message includes a clip-art picture. In some applications according to this aspect of the invention, the automatic recognition module also distinguishes between an in-line graphics message and a message consisting of a gallery of clip-art.

Further, in some applications in which a picture editor is provided, the picture editor of the wireless terminal communicates with a picture editor of another wireless terminal so as to allow the user of the other wireless terminal to participate in drawing a clip-art picture being created on the wireless terminal, thereby allowing group drawing of clip-art pictures.

Also further, in some applications in which a picture editor is provided, the picture editor provides an interface in which a user uses keys of the numeric keypad of the wireless terminal to draw or edit a clip-art picture, the interface providing a virtual pen in that the numeric keys of the keypad move a cursor about on the display screen of the wireless

terminal, and, based on a pen state a user is able indicate to the picture editor interface, in moving the cursor from one point on the display screen to another, either a solid line results, a dashed line, a white line, or no line at all.

5 Still also further, in some applications in which a picture editor is provided, the picture editor provides an interface through which a user is able to add features to an existing clip-art picture, invert an existing clip-art picture, or mirror an existing clip-art picture.

10 From another perspective, the invention is a wireless terminal (and a corresponding method of operation of a wireless terminal) including a picture editor as generally described above but not restricted in its use to editing (including creating) clip-art pictures maintained in a gallery, and instead
15 of use in editing stand-alone pictures, and including some or all of the following capabilities (generally indicated above): allowing group editing; allowing mirroring a picture, inverting a picture, or adding a pre-drawn object to a picture (such as adding sunglasses to a smiley face); and allowing a user to
20 indicate drawing modes (pen on or pen off) and pen states (black, white or dotted).

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

25 The above and other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become apparent from a consideration of the subsequent detailed description presented in connection with accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of the components of a mobile phone needed to practice the present invention;